

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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IO-10 /074 W

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R 231108Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3784

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2369

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, CY, PLO

SUBJ: MAKARIOS VISIT TO SYRIA

1. PRESIDENT MARKARIOS ARRIVED DAMASCUS JUNE 19 AND WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT ASAD AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ASAD HOSTED BANQUEST FOR MAKARIOUS SAME EVENING AND LATER TWO LEADERS HELD TALK IN PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTER AYYUBI, DEPRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAYDAR AND MINECON AND FOREIGN TRADE IMADI WHICH LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR, FOLLOWED BY ONE HOUR OF PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS.

2. AT BANQUET ASAD EXPRESSED "FIRM SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY OF LAND AND SECURITY OF REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, AND OF AFFIRMING RIGHT OF TWO COMMUNITIES TO CO-EXIST WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. WE HAVE AND STILL SUPPORT LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP."

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3. JUNE 20 MAKARIOS VISITED KUNEITRA WHERE HE EXPRESSED "SHOCK" AT DESTRUCTION WHICH WAS "LIVING PROOF OF BARBARIC ACT." HE ALSO VISITED PALESTINIAN CAMP AND RELIGIOUS SITES.

4. JUNE 21 MAKARIOS MET WITH PLO LEADER YASIR ARAFAT. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING ON PALESTINIAN SIDE WERE SAIQA LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSIN AND EXCOMM DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION ABD AL-MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR.

5. JUNE 21 SYRIAN AND CYPRIOT REPS SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

6. JUNE 22 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR BAGHDAD MAKARIOS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

CYPRUS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND RECOVERY OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; PLO SHOULD BE INVITED TO GENEVA AS ESSENTIAL PARTY TO CONFLICT AND NOT AS OBSERVER; CYPRUS/PALESTINE ISSUES INTERRELATED BECAUSE POSITIONS BASED ON FAIT ACCOMPLI WERE UNACCEPTABLE; HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS QUESTION BECAUSE ANKARA ADHERING TO FAIT ACCOMPLI; U.S. COULD HAVE STOPPED TURKISH INVASION "PARTICULARLY AT SECOND STAGE" BUT U.S. REFRAINED AND THUS "WE HOLD U.S. RESPONSIBLE"; BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE USED AGAINST ARAB COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT MAKARIOS AGREED WITH ALL POSITIONS TAKEN BY ASAD. PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS FULL AND FAVORABLE, BUT THUS FAR NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAS APPEARED.
PELLETREAU

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